

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 5

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 100th anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's birth.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to honor and commemorate the lives of those inspirational Americans who, throughout their estimable lives, committed themselves to public service of the highest order and whose outstanding contributions transformed our great nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, one such distinguished public servant was President Ronald Reagan, a man who truly embodied the American spirit with his un-apologetic patriotism, undeniable magnetism, and unwavering belief in the American people, in their goodness and in their God-given ability and right to self-governance; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in the Land of Lincoln, Ronald Wilson Reagan experienced a humble upbringing and acquired his legendary optimism and belief that individuals could determine their own destiny from his mother, Nelle Wilson Reagan, and his father, John Edward "Jack" Reagan; and

WHEREAS, nicknamed "Dutch" by his father, Ronald Reagan was a natural born-leader, who served as captain of the swim team, student body president, and member of both the football team and Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity while majoring in economics and sociology at Eureka College; and

WHEREAS, pursuing his dream of a career in the entertainment industry, he became a radio sports announcer on WCO radio in Iowa before his deep, clear voice and acting prowess earned the "Great Communicator" a contract to perform on the silver screen during Hollywood's golden age; and

WHEREAS, a staunch believer in limited, responsible government and an outspoken critic of communism, Ronald Reagan was finally convinced by his persistent supporters to run for public office; he was elected Governor of California by a margin of one million votes in 1966 and handily won his re-election bid in 1970; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan served with honor and distinction for two terms as the 40th President of the United States; in the second general election he was victorious in forty-nine of the fifty states, earning the confidence of three-fifths of the electorate, a record unsurpassed in the history of American presidential elections; and

WHEREAS, when Ronald Reagan was inaugurated in 1981, he inherited a nation disillusioned by high inflation, rising unemployment, burdensome taxation, and run-away government spending; and

WHEREAS, courageously slashing the size and scope of the federal government, President Reagan ushered in an era of unprecedented growth and prosperity and, as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once eloquently stated, “transformed the stagnant economy into an engine of opportunity”; and

WHEREAS, with a steadfast resolve and common sense philosophy of “peace through strength,” President Reagan dramatically increased military spending in order to counter the Soviet Union’s military machine, and his visionary leadership ultimately relegated the “evil empire” to the “ash heap of history,” freeing millions of people enslaved by the Soviet Union’s communistic regime; and

WHEREAS, February 6, 2011, will mark the 100th anniversary of Ronald Reagan’s birth, and we wish to grasp this precious opportunity to specially honor the indelible legacy of this conservative icon, American hero, and man of unparalleled principal and eternal optimism on this momentous occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commemorate the 100th anniversary of President Ronald Wilson Reagan’s birth and fondly reflect upon his impeccable character and stalwart commitment to the country he loved.